



1226 Lesley Ave.—Indianapolis, IN 46219 317/357-3733

## **Press Release: For Immediate Release**

**Dateline:** June, 2010

**For information:** Contact Sky Schelle at 317/357-3733 ([pleasantrunwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:pleasantrunwatershed@gmail.com)) for information on the event described in this release.

---

### **Eastside Resident: Let's Start an Effort to Protect Local Stream**

(Indianapolis) On Indianapolis' eastside, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has deemed the health of Pleasant Run Watershed as 'impaired'. Runoff pollution that we all contribute to helped cause the impairment. Runoff occurs when rainwater washes fertilizer, grease, oil, bacteria from pets and wildlife, and sediments from roads and parking lots into Pleasant Run. Sky Schelle, a local resident with a professional background in environmental science, wants the local community to do something to improve the stream and is starting an effort to create a state-approved watershed management plan for Pleasant Run. "Right now, I'm focusing on trying to get others interested in helping," Schelle explained. "I'm contacting churches, schools, neighborhood associations, and other groups from around Pleasant Run Watershed and have been invited to speak to about a dozen organizations about the stream. There's a lot of local interest in cleaning up Pleasant Run, which is great because I need other volunteers in order to complete a plan"

His outreach effort ends on June 22 at 7pm when Mr. Schelle holds a project kick-off meeting at Lutheran Child and Family Services at 1525 N. Ritter Ave. At this meeting, the public will have a chance to learn about what's polluting Pleasant Run, why a watershed management plan will help improve the stream, and most importantly how they can help. Creation of the watershed management plan can start if enough interested volunteers are identified at the June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

A watershed is all the land that drains into a particular stream. A map of Pleasant Run Watershed is at [www.pleasantrunwatershed.org](http://www.pleasantrunwatershed.org). IDEM says Pleasant Run's worst problems are *E. coli* and Impaired Biotic Communities. These problems are caused in part by runoff pollution—applying too much fertilizer, grease, oil, and sediments from roads and parking lots, excess stormwater, and bacteria from pets and wildlife—that every member of the watershed contributes to everyday. A watershed management plan identifies the worst of these runoff problems, their sources, and sets goals to eliminate them. The plan is not another law, and working towards achieving its goals is voluntary. With enough volunteers, Mr. Schelle hopes to have a state approved watershed management plan in time to apply for grants by Fall 2011. Grants would help pay for rain gardens, rain barrels, stream buffers, public education, and other practices that improve water quality. Watershed management plans typically cost tens of thousands of dollars to create, but Mr. Schelle is confident that with the help of passionate volunteers, the plan can be finished without any funding. Those interested in helping with this project are invited to attend the June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, visit [www.pleasantrunwatershed.org](http://www.pleasantrunwatershed.org), or contact Sky at [pleasantrunwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:pleasantrunwatershed@gmail.com).